

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7231

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0440

DEPT PLEASE PASS, AS APPROPRIATE, CAIRO, JIDDA AND TEL AVIV

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, EG

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR'S VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST
SITUATION

REF: HELSINKI 0426 (NOTAL)

1. DURING HIS CALL ON ME THIS MORNING, THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR, OMAR HEFNI MAHMOUD, HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION: (A) THERE COULD BE NO COMPROMISE ON EGYPT REGAINING ALL OF ITS TERRITORIES NOW HELD BY ISRAEL; (B) WITH ARAFAT NOW RECOGNIZED AS THE SPOKESMAN OF THE PALESTINIANS, CHANCES FOR A SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM HAD IMPROVED; (C) THE MOST LIKELY SOLUTION IS A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN STATE; (D) INTERNATIONALIZATION OF JERUSALEM MIGHT BE THE ONLY SOLUTION, BUT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR ARABS TO AGREE TO IT AFTER KING FAISAL HAD "GIVEN HIS WORD" THAT JERUSALEM WOULD BE "LIBERATED;" (E) FAISAL HAD BECOME THE SYMBOL OF THE ARAB "NATION," TO THE POINT WHERE EVERYONE CHECKED OUT PROPOSALS WITH HIM FIRST; (F) KHADDAFY OF LIBYA WAS A BRASH "PURE" YOUNG MAN WHO HAD NOT BECOME CORRUPTED BY POLITICS YET. PRESIDENT SADAT HAD ENLISTED THE HELP OF FAISAL TO
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TRY TO RESTRAIN KHADDAFY; (G) THE FACT THAT THE

EGYPTIAN ARMED FORCES HAD NOT BEEN DEFEATED OR HUMILIATED IN THE OCTOBER WAR WAS BASIC NEW ELEMENT IN THE ENTIRE EQUATION, BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANT WAS THE NEW SADAT-FAISAL RELATIONSHIP, WITH FAISAL'S INFLUENCE AND NEW ROLE THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR OF ALL.

2. AMBASSADOR MAHMOUD IS VERY PLEASED THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND THE UNITED STATES ARE STADILY IMPROVING AND GREATLY APPRECIATES THE POSITIVE ROLE THE SECRETARY KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT NIXON HAVE PLAYED IN MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS. HE SAID THAT EGYPT ATTACHES GREAT SIGNIFICANCE TO PRESIDENT NIXON'S UPCOMING VISIT TO EGYPT AND EGYPT IS RELYING ON CONTINUED US EFFORTS TO FIND AN OVERALL SOLUTION. HE ALSO FEELS THAT ONCE A SOLUTION ACCEPTABLE TO EGYPT IS FOUND, NO OTHER ARAB COUNTRY WILL DARE TO EMBARK ON ANY SEPARATE ATTACKS OR ADVENTURES AGAINST ISRAEL.
KREHBIEL

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO, JIDDA AND TEL AVIV.

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